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P.S. Since the above notes were written I have seen Nathusius's paper on the European shrews, alluded to by the editor in a former number of this journal*. He does not appear to admit of more than two species belonging to the group termed by Duvernoy AMPHISOREX. Of course, therefore, that which I have above named *S. labiosus* is either unknown to him, or, what is perhaps more probable, would pass as a mere variety of the *S. tetragonurus*. And I am far from saying that this last opinion might not ultimately prove correct. Nevertheless, as I have seen two specimens exactly similar, I feel induced for the present to consider it as distinct.

I may also state, that since it clearly appears now that the *S. tetragonurus* of Hermann was known to Linnæus, and the very species originally described by him in the first edition of the 'Fauna Suecica,' under the name of *S. vulgaris*†, it will be proper, in accordance with Nathusius, to adopt the name last mentioned for this species, and to allow that of *tetragonurus* to sink as a synonym. It will also be advisable to transfer the English name of *common shrew* from the *S. rusticus* to this species, which is far more abundant in this country, and seems to be the species most universally distributed throughout Europe. Those naturalists who wish to have an English name for everything might call the former the *rustic shrew*.

Swaffham Bulbeck, Nov. 28, 1838.

XXXVII.—*Description of two new Orchideous Plants, from the Collection of C. S. Parker, Esq.* By SIR W. J. HOOKER, L.L.D., Reg. Prof. Bot. Glasgow, F.R.S., L.S.

[With Plates.]

1. PLEUROTHALLIS ARISTATA.

Nana, foliis petiolatis spatulatis, racemo paucifloro, sepalis æqualibus lanceolatis aristato-acuminatissimis maculatis 3-nervibus 2 lateralibus basi connatis, petalis sextuplo minoribus oblongo-acuminatis longe ci-

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liatis uninervibus, labello trilobo, lobo medio elliptico pubescenti-velutino. (Plate XV.)

Hab. British Guiana.

Cultivated in the stove of C. S. Parker, Esq., of Liverpool, having been received with many other rarities from Demerara. Whole plant scarcely 3 inches high. Leaves 3, in our specimen spatulate, acute, an inch or an inch and a half long, including the slender petiole into which it gradually tapers. Scape very slender, twice as long as the leaves, bearing a raceme of 3—4 flowers half an inch long. Perianth erect. Sepals equal, lanceolate, 3-nerved, concave, dingy yellow, spotted with purple, much acuminate, so as to be almost aristate at the extremity, the two lateral ones united at their base. Petals about one third the length, and about one third the breadth of the sepals, oblong, 1-nerved, acuminate, almost aristate, and strongly ciliated at the margin. Lip as long as the petals, fleshy, contracted a little above the base, narrow, oblong, 3-lobed, the side lobes obtuse, incurved, the middle one elliptical, clothed on the upper side with velvety down. Column wingless, slender, shorter than the petals. Anther conical, oblique.

The two lateral sepals are but slightly combined, and though not serrate they are concave below, so that this plant seems almost to combine the characters of *Specklinia* with *Pleurothallis*.

Plate XV. A. *Pleurothallis aristata*, nat. size. Fig. 1, flower; fig. 2, the same laid open; fig. 3, petal; fig. 4, labellum; fig. 5, column and anther, magnified.

2. STELIS FOLIOSA.

Nana, foliis subtribus lineari-oblongis, scapo foliis brevioris, spica subcompacta, floribus subcernuis, petalis lingulatis sepala subæquantibus, labello trilobo, medio dense glanduloso. (Plate XVII.)

Hab. British Guiana; whence it was introduced in a living state by C. S. Parker, Esq.

Root small, fibrous. Leaves 3—4, of which 2 are nearly equal in length, 2—3 inches long, linear oblong, rather waved, below there are one or two smaller ones. Scape shorter than the foliage, bearing a short and rather compact spike of 12—14 flowers, throughout of this same uniform pale greenish colour, slightly drooping, each subtended by a small

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Plate XVII.* *A. Stelis foliosa*, nat. size; fig. 1, flower-bud; fig. 2, flower expanded, in its natural position; fig. 3, the same inverted and more expanded; fig. 4, column; fig. 5, petals; fig. 6, labellum; fig. 7, side view of the labellum; fig. 8, pollen masses, magnified.

XXXVIII.—*Catalogue of the Slender-tongued Saurians, with Descriptions of many new Genera and Species.* By JOHN EDWARD GRAY, Esq., F.R.S., Senior Assistant in the Zoological Department of the British Museum, &c.

[Continued from p. 293.]

DASIA. Toes 5—5, short, lower joint rather thick, with transverse plaits beneath, upper ones compressed and slightly arched; the index and middle finger equal, the next finger a little shorter, thumb large; ears closed over by the scales, not apparent (nor apparently fringed); muzzle short, rounded; tail tapering.

Dasia olivacea. Olive, back of the head-shield black; the back with 12 cross series of scales with a central white spot and a black spot on the sides; the band sometimes interrupted; scales 3 or 5 keeled, 3 or 5 toothed behind, the 2 lateral keels close together; hinder part of the sides, and sides of the tail with 2 broad white streaks; chin and beneath green, not spotted.

Prince of Wales's Island.

Mus. Chatham.

APRASIA. Head small, with 2 pairs of rather large frontal shields, which also cover the cheeks; a large 6-sided elongate vertebral, and a pair of small superciliary, shields; labial shields rather larger, few; eyes large, round, eyelids rudimentary, pupil round; nostrils small, in the suture between the top of the first labial and anterior frontal plate; muzzle rounded, rather produced. Ears none; body cylindrical elongate, covered with uniform hexangular smooth scales;

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